Medical Assistance to Iraq

5038. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Iraq has requested the Government of India to provide medical assistance to the war afflicted people;

(b) if so. Government's reaction thereto;and

(c) by when such assistance is proposed to be provided together with the nature and quantum of assistance to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) : (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Fight against terrorism and organized crime

5039. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agree that terrorism and organized crime are global threat;

(b) if so. whether Government also agree that international cooperation is required to solve these problems;

(c) if so. whether Government have taken any steps in this regard; and

(d) if so. the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) and (d) Government has taken a number of steps in this regard including cooperation under Joint Working Groups with a number of countries on combating terrorism; being a party to UN sectoral conventions on terrorism and the Convention on Trans-national Organized Crime; advancing a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) and tackling these threats through bilateral cooperation.

Criteria for categorisation of dancers in ICCR

5040. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Council for Cultural Relations has prescribed specific criteria and procedure for categorisation of dancers for sponsoring them for concert tours abroad;